From: Page, Gary R.
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Microsoft

Thank you for the forum to allow the public to submit their opinion concerning Microsoft.

I am a computer programmer and have use Personal Computers since their inception. I started with MS-DOS 1.0 and have progressed through every release. One more than one occasion, I purchased products (e.g. DR-DOS, Rbase) which were subsequently driven out of business by Microsoft's predatory practices. An excellent book on this subject is "Barbarians Led by Bill Gates" by Melissa Edstrom.

The fundamental aspect of this case is the definition of an Operating System. Microsoft has declared that any feature which can be integrated into the Operating Systems IS part of the Operating System. This is incorrect. The Operating System is simply the software required to allow application programs to "communicate" with the physical hardware. This perspective is applied in the Linux/Unix worlds with the Operating System defined uniquely as a "kernel". "Windows" is an application which directly interfaces to the hardware. Because of the intimate relationship between Microsoft applications and underlying "Operating System", other applications vendors can not possibly compete. No competition equates to mediocre products. This is proven.

Please reconsider these remedies and allow the Justice Department to force Microsoft to create and maintain a generic operating system. This is good for business and the people who use computers.

Thanks,
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